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April 13, 2005 LB 673

CLERK: Mr. President, the first amendment this afternoon to the committee amendments I have is by Senator Chambers. FA159. (Legislative Journal page 1177.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Chambers, you're recognized to open on FA159 to the committee amendments.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, when I make a promise to this body, I carry it out, unless something happens of a compelling nature which makes it unnecessary. The promise that I made was that I was going to offer a motion, an amendment, to strike each individual section, to force a discussion--not of every section; I said, of every word in this bill. And that's what I'm commencing to do. There are three fates, f-a-t-e-s: Clotho, Lachesis, and Atropos. I've told you who they are. I'll tell you what they do, but I won't tell you what each one does except the last one. Senator Erdman, thanks to the fact that he brought some young people down, or invited some down here yesterday, heard me explain what these individuals do. One of them weaves or spins the thread of a person's life. The second determines how long that thread will be. And Atropos, the one with the scissors, determines when those scissors will snip that thread, after a determination has been made of how long it is to be. When you reach Atropos, there is no negotiation. No crying, sighing, pleading can make any difference. When the thread falls between the blades of the scissors, there is no way for that thread to leave that position, other than having been snipped in two. So Atropos is at work this afternoon on LB 673. And I have nothing but time, I have boundless energy, and, I think, an inexhaustible supply of stamina. And I'm going to have the opportunity to see whether that is really so, as I believe it to be, as I look at some of the atrocious bills that are on the agenda confronting us in the Combs division and the Bourne division. A standard was set somewhat by the way we dealt with the anti-smoking bill. That bill dealt with the health of our fellow citizens. And the lobbyists won on that one. The purveyors of tobacco, which kills over 400-and-something-thousand people a year, and alcohol, which is involved in I don't know how many driving accidents that kill I don't know how many people per year. But the purveyors of those substances prevailed on the Legislature